

Appl. No. 09/988,896
Amdt. dated May 23, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 31, 2006

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-11, and 13-19 were pending. Upon entry of this amendment, amending claims 8, 10, and 11, and canceling claims 7 and 9 without prejudice, claims 1-6, 8, 10-11, and 13-19 remain pending. Claims 1-6 and 13-19 are allowed. Claims 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,719,862 issued to Lee et al. (hereinafter "Lee") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,022,056 issued to Henderson et al. (hereinafter "Henderson"). Claims 8, 10, and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicants aver that no new matter has been added in this response.

§ 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being obvious over Lee in view of Henderson. Applicants have canceled claims 7 and 9 without prejudice and submit that the rejections are now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-6 and 13-19. Per the Examiner's remarks in the Office Action, claims 8, 10 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form including all intervening claims and are now in condition for Allowance.

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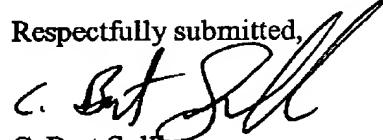
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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